

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 20, 2014

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

As Members of Congress from the Long Island Sound region, we write to urge you to include at least \$10 million in funding for the restoration and protection of Long Island Sound in your FY 2016 budget request. As you know, federal funding is essential to advancing critically important water quality restoration, public access, recreation, and habitat protection efforts in Long Island Sound. We recognize the difficult budget climate for FY 2016 and appreciate your efforts to protect Long Island Sound for current and future generations.

The Sound is a national treasure whose watershed covers all or part of six states. Because of its significant and unique ecological and economic value, Long Island Sound was one of the first three estuaries recognized in 1985 under the National Estuary Program. More than ten percent of our nation's population lives in the Long Island Sound watershed, and the resultant development has led to increasingly poor ecosystem health. Despite these challenges, the Sound contributes an estimated \$9.8 billion per year to the regional economy from commercial and recreational fishing, ecotourism and other water dependent businesses.

With federal leadership and investment, a strong partnership has been forged among federal, state, and local agencies as well as regional and local stakeholders to coordinate the natural resource and watershed management activities around Long Island Sound. As part of this effort, the States, Counties and municipalities of Connecticut and New York have invested hundreds of millions of their taxpayer dollars to restore the Sound's water quality and protect its coastal resources. The federal government must continue to play a lead role in this effort. Sustained federal support for the Sound is important to ensure that this partnership continues its successful efforts to improve the health of the estuary and sustain the economy and jobs that depend upon it.

Congress has also recognized the importance of the Sound with two important authorizations. The Long Island Sound Restoration Act, created as part of the Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000 and reauthorized in 2005, authorizes activities to help protect and restore the environmentally and economically vital resources of the Sound. Congress reiterated its recognition of the Sound's importance in 2006 with the enactment of the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act to establish a public/private effort to identify, protect, and enhance the habitats throughout the Sound with significant biological, scientific, or recreational value. Investments in

implementing the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act present an important opportunity for the Environmental Protection Agency to further its work along the Sound in a collaborative manner with state and local conservation programs.

To ensure the missions of the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Acts are not threatened by mounting environmental pressures, we believe it is important to support the Sound at a robust level in your FY 2016 budget request. Therefore, we urge the Administration to prioritize restoration and protection efforts and include at least \$10 million in funding for Long Island Sound.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you in your new role as Administrator.

Sincerely,



ROSAL. DeLAURO
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Long Island Sound Caucus



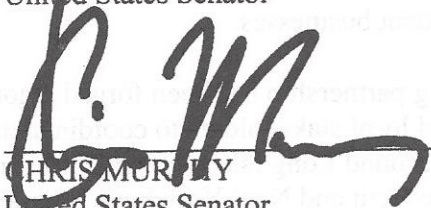
STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Long Island Sound Caucus



KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
United States Senator



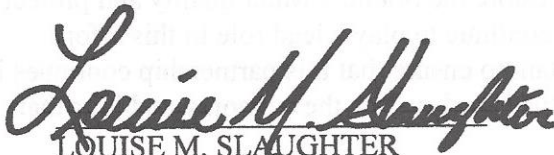
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator



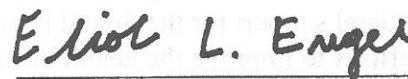
CHRIS MURPHY
United States Senator



CHARLES RANGEL
Member of Congress



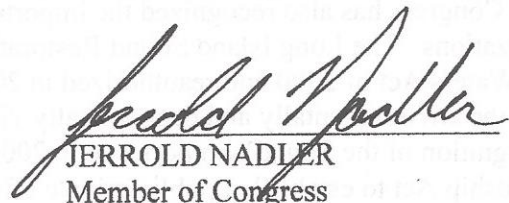
LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress



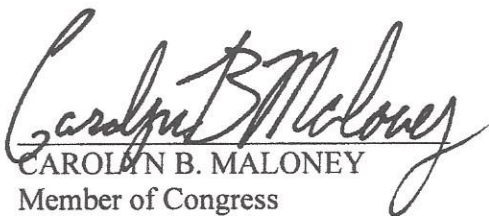
ELIOT ENGEL
Member of Congress



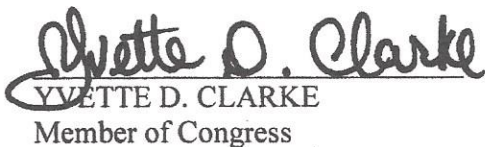
JOSÉ ENRIQUE SERRANO
Member of Congress

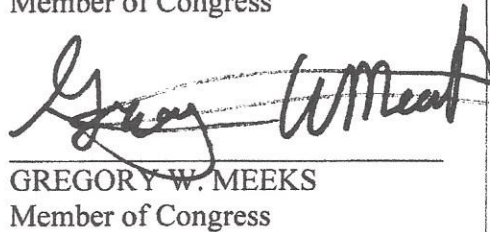


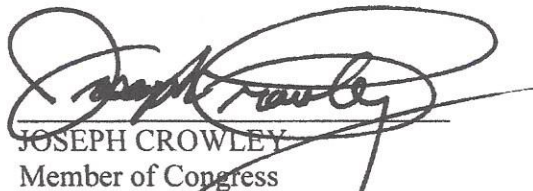
JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

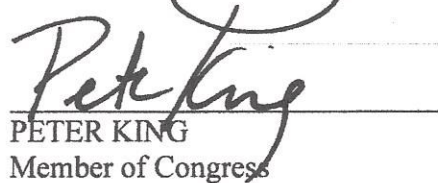

CAROLYN MCCARTHY
Member of Congress


YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress



GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress


JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress


JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress

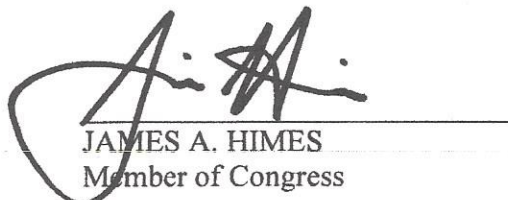

PETER KING
Member of Congress


TIM BISHOP
Member of Congress


JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress


WILLIAM OWENS
Member of Congress


PAUL TONKO
Member of Congress


JAMES A. HIMES
Member of Congress


ELIZABETH ESTY
Member of Congress


GRACE MENG
Member of Congress



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman DeLauro:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy. Last week's event at The Sound School in New Haven, CT highlights this significance. The Administrator enjoyed seeing you there.

In the development of the budget, the EPA gives consideration to the nation's many critical environmental concerns and threats to human health, including those pertaining to the Long Island Sound program. The Agency shares the commitment to working toward the goals of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan which also envisioned many funding sources for implementation, including other federal agency resources, and resources from state and local governments and private industry. Previous funding for the Long Island Sound program has supported several activities, such as water quality monitoring, coastal habitat restoration, and coordination of watershed protection programs. The EPA appreciates your input on the FY 2016 budget request for the Long Island Sound Program.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact James Blizzard, in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at blizzard.james@epa.gov or (202) 564-1695.

Sincerely,

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David Bloom
Acting Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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David Bloom
Acting Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
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The Honorable Christopher Murphy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murphy:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460



OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Slaughter:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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Acting Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Jose Serrano
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Serrano:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Steve Israel
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Israel:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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Acting Chief Financial Officer



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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rangel:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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Acting Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Elliott L. Engel
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Engel:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Nadler:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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David Bloom
Acting Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460



OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Maloney:

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David Bloom
Acting Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Yvette Clarke
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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Acting Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Joseph Crowley
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Crowley:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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Acting Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460



OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Peter T. King
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman King:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Joe Courtney
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Courtney:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
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The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko:

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OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Elizabeth Esty
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Esty:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

In the development of the budget, the EPA gives consideration to the nation's many critical environmental concerns and threats to human health, including those pertaining to the Long Island Sound program. The Agency shares the commitment to working toward the goals of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan which also envisioned many funding sources for implementation, including other federal agency resources, and resources from state and local governments and private industry. Previous funding for the Long Island Sound program has supported several activities, such as water quality monitoring, coastal habitat restoration, and coordination of watershed protection programs. The EPA appreciates your input on the FY 2016 budget request for the Long Island Sound Program.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact James Blizzard, in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at blizzard.james@epa.gov or (202) 564-1695.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Bloom", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Bloom
Acting Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman McCarthy:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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David Bloom
Acting Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Meeks:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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David Bloom
Acting Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable John B. Larson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Larson:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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David Bloom
Acting Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Timothy Bishop
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Bishop:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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Sincerely,

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David Bloom
Acting Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable William Owens
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Owens:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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David Bloom
Acting Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable James A. Himes
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Himes:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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Sincerely,

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David Bloom
Acting Chief Financial Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 23 2014

OFFICE OF
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Grace Meng
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Meng:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound program at a minimum of \$10 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Long Island Sound program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy.

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Sincerely,

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David Bloom
Acting Chief Financial Officer

PATRICK J. LEAHY
VERMONT

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

U.S. Capitol Building
Suite S-125
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-9400
(202) 224-3593 FAX

United States Senate

September 17, 2014

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

As you know, I strongly support the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) mission and the work it does every day to defend and restore the nation's ecosystems and to protect human health. Environmental protection is a high priority for Vermonters.

I appreciate the time you have spent discussing the meaningful impact of the EPA's investment through the Geographic Areas Program in the cleanup efforts, water quality and ecological integrity of Lake Champlain. Vermont has been hard at work trying to improve water quality since I authored the Lake Champlain Special Designation Act of 1991. However, the problems have proved more difficult and more expensive than we could ever have anticipated. Algae blooms continue to foul some parts of the Lake each summer, and, unfortunately, progress has been terribly slow despite our best efforts. It is clear that we must continue our focus on the restoration of water quality in Lake Champlain, and it will take the expertise and leadership of the EPA as a strong federal partner to reach our mutual goals.

The Agency has set forth an aggressive timeline for the implementation of the standards with the Lake Champlain Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load plan (TMDL) scheduled to be finalized in early 2015. To fully implement the TMDL will require significant action, and federal funding is an essential component to the ability of Vermont and New York to meet new accountability standards that affect all of the Lake's major sources of phosphorus.

Unfortunately, just as these new standards are put into place, the financial support once provided by the Agency that is essential to the success of the TMDL has been significantly reduced. The administration's budget request for the EPA's Geographic Areas Lake Champlain program for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) and again in FY15 was only \$1.399 million. This represents a nearly 50 percent reduction from the funding available for Lake Champlain only four years ago, and has already dramatically hindered the program's ability to meet the Agency's stringent guidelines and standards.

I hope that you will reprioritize the Lake Champlain Geographic Program, and that you will advocate for the inclusion of at least \$5 million (the level included in the FY15 Senate Interior Subcommittee Appropriations bill) in the administration's FY16 budget request for the Lake Champlain Geographic Areas Program. This will help ensure the continued success of our joint efforts to clean up Lake Champlain.

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
September 17, 2014
Page 2 of 2

I look forward to continuing the discussion about the EPA's support of Lake Champlain when you visit Vermont in October, and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat", is positioned above the printed name.

PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator

*As you know this is a priority
of mine.*



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT - 9 2014

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:


Thank you for your letter of September 17, 2014, to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, requesting support for funding the Lake Champlain program at a minimum of \$5 million in the Agency's FY 2016 budget request. The Lake Champlain program is an important national ecological treasure that significantly contributes to the well-being of the regional economy. As you know, the EPA has a significant effort underway on revising the Lake Champlain phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The EPA has forged a strong partnership with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and the Vermont Department of Agriculture, Food, and Markets, and the EPA has invested a considerable amount of contract dollars (approximately \$930,000) and staff time for the Lake Champlain TMDL revision. The EPA expects to complete a final TMDL in late spring 2015, which will help drive Lake Champlain restoration efforts.

In the development of the budget, the EPA gives consideration to the nation's many critical environmental concerns and threats to human health, including those pertaining to the Lake Champlain program. The Agency shares the commitment to working toward the goals of promoting healthy and diverse economic activities and sustainable development principles while improving water quality and conserving natural and cultural heritage resources. Previous funding for the Lake Champlain program has supported several activities, such as reducing phosphorous inputs and contaminants that pose a risk to public health and the Lake Champlain ecosystem, while maintaining resilient and diverse communities of fish, wildlife, and plants.

The EPA appreciates your input on the FY 2016 budget request for the Lake Champlain Program. I know the Administrator is looking forward to attending the Lake Champlain meeting with you on October 10, 2014. This meeting will help to renew each agency's commitment to coordinate efforts and partnerships to protect and restore Lake Champlain.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact James Blizzard, in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at blizzard.james@epa.gov or (202) 564-1695.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Bloom', is written over a horizontal line.

David A. Bloom
Acting Chief Financial Officer